

## Minutes of July 13 EAC Meeting

The Allentown EAC met on July 13 starting at 5:20 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room of Allentown City Hall.

EAC members present: Joe Hoffman, Scott Burnet, Tinku Khanwalkar

Non-EAC members present: Lee Vedder

- The minutes of the June meeting were duly approved.
- There was a discussion about the City's decision to have the Color Run again this year after all, despite the fish kill that was experienced last year. Tinku reported that she discussed this with the Mayor and the Mayor does not believe the Color Run caused the fish kill. Apparently the City will conduct the Color Run again this year in exactly the same way, with the same impacts to Cedar Creek. Scott will try to obtain in report about last year's fish kill from the Pa DEP and Pa. Fish and Boat. Tinku Khanwalkar moved that Scott Burnet and Joe Hoffman monitor Cedar Creek on the day of the Color Run this year and coordinate with the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission and Pa DEP in doing so. Scott Burnet seconded the motion and it was **APPROVED**. Tinku also suggested that she will notify Lindsay Taylor of the EAC's intention to do this and will copy the Mayor and Mike Heffley on the communication.
- The EAC then discussed the City's decision to mow over the no-grow zone in Trexler Park and at Sparkle Island at Lake Muhlenberg. There was a discussion of commencing a petition campaign that could be led by the Bird Town Coalition or the Lehigh Valley Watershed Coalition. Scott Burnet offered to check with the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society to see if the petition can be led from there.
- Scott Burnet raised the concern that tall glass buildings will be going up as part of the Allentown redevelopment and this would significantly increase bird strikes. Tinku Khawalkar moved that Rich Niesenbaum be tasked with ensuring that this concern receives proper consideration at the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Joe Hoffman and **APPROVED**.
- Reports from Liaisons:
  - Scott has discussed with Karen El Chaar the mowing of the native plants at Lake Muhlenberg. Karen has asserted that the Friends of the Allentown Parks will not provide volunteers for planting native plants in the parks anymore in light of this.

- Tinku reported that she had met with the Mayor and reminded him of the vacancy on the EAC to be filled by the Mayor. She reminded him about Allen Messinger's continuing interest in the position. She also reported that she reviewed with the Mayor the letter to the Department heads that the EAC had drafted and the presentations that the EAC would like to give to Department heads but the Mayor suggested that relevant Department heads should just come to EAC meetings. Tinku also reported that she told the Mayor about the Public Works' lack of response to Randy Fey's efforts to be the EAC liaison with them.
- Joe Hoffman then moved to invite Craig Messinger to future EAC meetings. The motion was seconded by Scott Burnet and it was **APPROVED**. Tinku will send a letter to Craig Messinger and to City Council members and ask them to attend EAC meetings.
- Scott then moved to have Tinku get on the City Council agenda every four months to report on EAC activities and to have the other EAC members attend those meetings as well. The motion was seconded by Joe and **APPROVED**.
- Tinku then reported on the Mayor's interest in the EAC looking into whether a stormwater fee would make sense for the City of Allentown. The members concluded that this could be added to the report that Randy Fey had prepared. The fee could be imposed with provisions to reduce the fee if the developer includes a green roof, rain gardens or other measures to reduce stormwater runoff. There was also discussion of whether developers could even be incentivized to build and maintain stream buffers in exchange for a reduction in the fee.

The meeting was duly adjourned at 6:30 p.m.